

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., July 17, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

"Doctor Johnston's Salum", July 17, 1836.

Dear Andrew, I am thus far on my way to the Hermitage, but from the State of the roads, there can be no calculation made when we may reach there—it took us seven hours to day, to travel 10 miles, and in the Streets of Salum broke a swingle tree and the fore axes of the Carriage—in many places it takes ten horses to pull through the bog one waggon—in this section of country it has been raining for 14 or 16 days and the earth is perfectly full of water, we shall proceed on as early tomorrow as we can, after refitting. It is now clear and a prospect of fair weather, and we are determined to leave the old road and take a new one by the way of Peppers ferry, as the old road from this to Newriver, is impossible with carriages, and indeed, for single horsemen.¹ I shall write you again from Abington. . . .

1 A letter from James K. Polk to William C. Dawson, chairman of the House committee on mileage, Jan. 10, 1838 (Library of Congress, Polk MSS.), contains some interesting information about the routes from Nashville to Washington. Polk says that when first elected to Congress (1825) he travelled by what was known as the Virginia route. It went from Columbia, Tenn., Polk's home, to Nashville, thence to Knoxville, thence to Charlottesville, thence to Fredericksburg, and thence to Washington. His next journey was from Columbia to Nashville, 40 miles, to Louisville, 80 miles, to Wheeling by steamboat, and thence by land to Frederick, Md., and Washington. Another route was from Nashville to Lexington, Ky., and thence to the Ohio at Maysville, where they took the boat. When the

Library of Congress

Cumberland was navigable people went from Nashville by steamboat to Wheeling. Polk said he once went the Virginia route in his own carriage, but several times went in a stage-coach.